Government have liberalised Industrial Trade and Fiscal policies to enable indigenous industry to improve product quality and competitiveness through measures like upgradation of technology and import of better quality raw materials.

Manganese Ore (India) Ltd.

2129. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA :
DR. SHRIKANT RAM CHANDRA JICHKAR : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Manganese Ore (India) Ltd. is running in loss for the last three years if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether the Manganese Ore India Ltd. would be privatised in the near future, and if so, by when; and

(c) whether in view of the new economic policy Manganese Mining would be allowed in the Private Sector ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) No, Sir. The actual position is that Manganese Ore (India) Ltd. has been making profits during the period.

(b) There is no proposal to privatise Manganese Ore (India) Ltd.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Merger of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant with SAIL

2130. DR. YELMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) wheher Government have received any representations from the workers to merge Visakhapatnam Steel Plant into Steel Authority of India Limited;

(b) if so: what are the details thereof; and

(c) at what stage of consideration these proposals are ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) and (b) Visakha Steel Mazdoor Sangh has submitted a memorandum inter-alia demanding that Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP) should be merged in SAIL.

(c) There is no proposal to merge VSP with SAIL.

Modernisation of Steel Plants

2131. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the details of modernisation plans of different steel plants that are awaiting clearance of the Central Government till today along with their dates of submissions;

(b) the details of on-going modernisation programme undertaken by other steel plants together with the amount of payments made to each foreign/domestic companies in the past three years along with the details of resources mobilised in the past three years;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government could not avoid the delays because of certain irregularities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) The following proposals of steel plants are awaiting clearance :—

(i) Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL) : SAIL's proposal of April, 1992 based on alternative strategy of modernisation.